

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-08

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TAGS: PFOR, SP, PO, NATO, FR

SUBJECT: KING JUAN CARLOS' INVITATION TO FRANCE AND
SPANISH ADHERENCE TO NATO

REF: USNATO 4200 (NOTAL)

1. ELYSEE STAFF SOURCE TODAY ADMITTED TO FRENCH
EMBARRASSMENT THAT PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING'S INVITA-
TION TO KING JUAN CARLOS HAD SOMEHOW LEAKED TO FRENCH
PRESS ON DAY IT WAS DELIVERED AND BEFORE KING HAD
APPARENTLY RECEIVED IT. SMALL AFP REPORT, ALSO CARRIED
IN TRUNCATED FORM IN SOME EDITIONS OF LE MONDE, IS
THEREFORE CORRECT IN SAYING KING IS INVITED HERE TOWARD
END OF OCTOBER. FRENCH SO FAR HAVE RECEIVED NO REPLY
BUT ASSUME KING WILL ACCEPT. SOURCE ADDED THAT SPANISH
PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO CHIRAC, WHICH WAS BOTH PER-
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SONAL AND SUBSTANTIVE SUCCESS, AS WELL AS CONTINUING

POLITICAL EVOLUTION IN SPAIN SINCE THEN, DECIDED GISCARD TO EXTEND THIS LONG-ANTICIPATED INVITATION AT THIS TIME.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION ELYSEE STAFFER ALLUDED, INFORMALLY BUT AT HIS INITIATIVE, TO "CERTAIN RECENT SOUNDINGS" ON SPANISH ASSOCIATION WITH NATO. SOURCE SAID WE SHOULD KNOW THAT FRANCE HAD NO OBJECTIONS WHATEVER TO SUCH AN EVOLUTION, ALTHOUGH OBVIOUS POLITICAL OBSTACLES REMAIN TO BE OVERCOME. WHILE NO DEFINITIVE DECISIONS HAD AS YET BEEN TAKEN IN PARIS AS TO OPTIMAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EVENTUAL ADHERENCE OF SPAIN TO NATO AND TO THE EEC, HE THOUGHT GOF MIGHT NOT EVEN OBJECT IF THESE EVENTS TOOK PLACE MORE OR LESS SIMULTANEOUSLY. ON OTHER HAND FRENCH PROBABLY WOULD RESIST A SPANISH ADHERENCE TO NATO BEFORE IT HAD JOINED THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION, ANOTHER ELYSEE CONCERN IS TO MAINTAIN BALANCED ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SPANISH MILITARY, WHOM IT CONSIDERS BOTH A GUARANTEE OF SPANISH INTERNAL STABILITY AND AN OBSTACLE TO RAPID LIBERALIZATION. TIMING OF SPAIN'S EVENTUAL NATO ADHERENCE THEREFORE INVOLVES NOT ONLY PRIMARY EXTERNAL OBSTACLES IN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, BUT ALSO A JUDGMENT AS TO WHEN THE TIME IS RIPE FROM AN INTERNAL SPANISH POINT OF VIEW TO GIVE MILITARY NEW EMPHASIS.

4. SOURCE SAID, STRESSING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY, THAT KING'S VISIT TO FRANCE MIGHT OFFER FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER SOME OF THESE LONGER-TERM BUT VERY BASIC QUESTIONS.
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